

LACDMH EOB PARTICIPATES IN LA COUNTY TABLETOP EXERCISE
By Ken Kondo, Program Specialist/PIO, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive
Office, Office of Emergency Management



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Emergency Outreach Bureau's (EOB) Miriam Brown, Barbara Cienfuegos, Anna de la Torre and Becky Reyna participated in the Los Angeles County Operational Area (LACOA) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Tabletop Exercise (TTX) held at the Los Angeles County Charles S. Farnsworth Park in the unincorporated community of Altadena on February 26, 2013.

LACDMH EOB is participating as a partner in a strategic initiative to improve emergency management within the LACOA that is made up of 88 cities, 137 unincorporated area communities, over 100 school districts and 200 special districts.

In 2010, stakeholders from Los Angeles County's 32 departments and Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs) representing the 88 cities, formed the Emergency Exercise Steering Committee, recently renamed the Operational Area Training and Exercise Steering Committee (OATESC). This committee established strategic training and exercise priorities to address the natural and human-based threats to the LACOA. These priorities were incorporated from the 2010 Los Angeles/Long

Beach Urban Area/Los Angeles County Operational Area Homeland Security Strategic Plan and gaps identified in the 2008 Golden Guardian Functional Exercise. Working through an Exercise Design Team, it has directed a number of capabilities-based exercises to build effective Operational Area management, well in advance of any potential incidents. The LACOA EOC TTX was the culmination of the LACOA 2012-2013 exercise program for this grant cycle.



The LACOA EOC TTX, an unclassified capabilities-based exercise, was designed to validate the LACOA's Response Plan and to review and discuss Los Angeles County's resource management strategies for a catastrophic earthquake response.

Six facilitated discussion-based group conversations were held that focused on the activation and operations of an EOC and/or Department Operations Center (DOC) commodity points of distribution (C-PODs) and how critical information is identified, gathered and inputted into the information management system and shared with first responders, emergency managers and key stakeholders after a catastrophic earthquake.

The LACOA EOC TTX was deemed a success and provided the background in preparation for the LACOA EOC Functional Exercise (FE) where the County Emergency

Operations Center (CEOC) and more than 50 cities have signed on to participate in support of this year's FE scheduled on March 21, 2013.

LACDMH has been an active partner serving on the Los Angeles County's Emergency Management Council as well as providing technical assistance to the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) staff and management in the development of the County's emergency response plans, annexes, planning and implementation of disaster preparedness drills, exercises and trainings, and distribution of emergency public information that have benefited the LACOA's family of first responders, public works, health, mental health and public health, NGOs and emergency management communities.

For more information on the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management, please access <http://lacoa.org>.

